

Lesson IX.

PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

May 27, 1900

Matt. 13 : 24-33—Memory Verses, 31, 33

Golden Text—The field is the world.—Matt. 13 : 38.

24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field :

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay ; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest : and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them : but gather the wheat into my barn.

31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field :

32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds : but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

33 Another parable spake he unto them : The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Jesus told some more picture stories or parables to make clear the meaning of His teaching. He said, the kingdom of God is like this :—

There was once a good farmer who spent a whole day sowing the best of seed in his fields. That night, when everybody was asleep, someone who had a grudge against him came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.

In a few weeks the farmer's servants went to see how their master's crop was coming

on. They were much shocked at what they saw. In among the young wheat plants was growing something that looked a little like wheat, but which they knew at once to be mock-wheat or tares.

They said to their master, "We thought you planted good seed. How is this?" "Some enemy has done it," said he. "Well," said the servants, "Shall we go and root out these weeds?" "Oh no," said the farmer, "You will only pull up the wheat at the same time. Leave them alone until